

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the interview held June 29, 2006, in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicants' attorney explained the presently-claimed invention and why it is patentable over the applied prior art. The discussion is summarized and expanded upon below.

The rejection of Claims 6, 9-11 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. 6,483,048 (Bontrager et al) or U.S. 6,492,595 (Sexton), is respectfully traversed. All of the presently-pending claims contain the limitations of at least Claim 20, not subject to this rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 6, 7, 9-11 and 18-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bontrager et al or Sexton, in view of U.S. 5,650,205 (Shukushima), further in view of U.S. 6,242,097 (Nishiguchi et al), is respectfully traversed. The Examiner relies on Bontrager et al and Sexton for disclosures of flat conductors comprising thermoplastic polyurethane films surrounding a metal strip. The Examiner relies on Shukushima for its disclosure of various antioxidants and metal deactivators. Such antioxidants and metal deactivators are disclosed for use with a thermoplastic resin, which is disclosed as not particularly limited, although polyurethane elastomers are disclosed as an example of such thermoplastic resins (column 2, lines 10-24). The Examiner similarly relies on Nishiguchi et al for their disclosure of antioxidants and metal deactivators for a particular resin composition, which resin composition contains, *inter alia*, a thermoplastic polyurethane resin.

During the above-referenced interview, Applicants' attorney noted that the applied prior art did not distinguish among various metal deactivators. However, as Applicants' attorney noted during the interview, Applicants have disclosed in the specification various examples demonstrating superiority in the use of the particular metal deactivators now the

subject of the broadest claims. Since the prior art does not suggest such superiority, it is necessarily unexpected. The comparative data in the specification is described as follows.

Example 1 describes eight compositions, labeled as Experiment numbers 1.1 through 1.8, that were each used to make a stabilized TPU, as described at page 18, line 15ff of the specification. Table 1 at page 19 lists the eight compositions. Experiment numbers 1.1 and 1.2 use a metal deactivator according to the presently-claimed invention; Experiment numbers 1.3 through 1.7 use a different metal deactivator; and Experiment number 1.8 uses no metal deactivator. Example 2 describes the production of test plates and aging tests using the above-discussed Experiment numbers. Figure 1 of the specification shows a curve for the elongation at break for samples according to these Experiment numbers, as described in the specification at page 19, lines 43-45. As described at page 20, lines 1-2, the metal deactivators of Experiment numbers 1.1 and 1.2 have a particularly good effect.

The above-discussed results could not have been predicted by the applied prior art.

During the above-referenced interview, the Examiner appeared to agree with the above analysis. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the active claims presently-pending in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Customer Number

22850

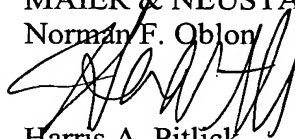
Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

NFO:HAP\

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon



Harris A. Pitlick
Registration No. 38,779